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11 MAY 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with James Hennessy, Executive Officer
Immigration and Naturalization Service

1. On 29 April 1965 I met with James Hennessy, Executive Officer, Immigration and Naturalization Service, to discuss possible amendments to the Immigration and Nationality Act. Mr. Hennessy stated that because of the Administration's desire to leave the Administration Immigration bill in its present form, no amendments to that bill were being contemplated; and that, therefore, he was unable to discuss with me any amendments, technical or otherwise. He stated that although the Immigration Service would have some amendments, if and when the time was ripe for submitting such amendments, he would first have to clear all of these through the Department of Justice's Legislative Office, and that the Service had not done so; therefore, he was unable to discuss such amendments.

2. He stated that it was his opinion that the Administration bill would not be passed until late in the session and that there would be no time left to then process other amendments to go into the Immigration and Nationality Act. As an aside, he stated that "God help the person or persons caught trying to amend the Administration Immigration bill. Lyndon Johnson would nail his hide to the wall." I advised Mr. Hennessy that we were interested only in the Immigration Service's thoughts on this in case they might be of some help in our own alien affairs problems, and that we felt

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that if we had an opportunity to know about these before the time their amendments arrive, we could give them some study. He stated he was aware of our problems, but at this point could not discuss such amendments.

3. I advised Mr. Warner of the conversation with Mr. Hennessy, and Mr. Warner suggested that I see Fred Mesmer, Staff Director, Senate Subcommittee on Immigration and Naturalization, and tell him about Hennessy's warning about amendments to the bill.

4. I saw Mr. Mesmer on 3 May and advised him that I was somewhat concerned with the possibility of problems arising if our amendments to the Immigration Act were introduced too early in the consideration of the Administration's bill, and he stated that he was well aware of the problems involved and that he would handle the situation without becoming involved other than the Subcommittee. He stated, as a matter of fact, any Senator could amend any bill which he chose and that there was no way that the Executive Branch could tie the Legislative Branch down to an agreement for no amendments to the Administration bill.



Office of Legislative Counsel

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